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Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 18 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Tragedy struck Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and other Republics in the Soviet Union in 1932 and 1933. Millions of innocent citizens, including Russians, Kazakhs, Ukrainians and people of other nationalities, perished in the mass famine resulting, in particular, from the repressive policies of the Stalinist regime, which have been condemned on many occasions.

The events surrounding the 1930s famine are a source of pain shared by all people of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We all deeply mourn and honour the memory of those who have perished. We reaffirm our commitment to the joint statement made at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2003 by several States, including the majority of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which expressed sympathy for the millions of victims of the tragedy regardless of their nationality (A/C.3/58/9).

Such tragedies must not be repeated in the twenty-first century anywhere in the world. The Russian Federation will make every effort to prevent their recurrence by promoting democracy and upholding human rights and the rule of law. We also encourage scholars to continue thorough research into all the shadowy areas in the history of this tragedy.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 70.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**

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